



A small school, dreaming big

Thursday 23rd April 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is lovely to be back at school and everyone is certainly benefiting from the recent sunshine. Now that the weather is drier, we are permitting children to go outside without over trousers on. We are giving them a choice about whether to wear a coat (unless it rains) but the wellies are staying for the time being in the green areas.

On Tuesday we had a visit from the Local Authority School Improvement Advisor, who has been working with us these past few years. He accompanied me on my play duty and was moved by the wonderful playtime he saw- children building elaborate dens and riding go carts. He remarked on how happy the children were and how calm and purposeful the school felt. He noticed the positive improvements we have made since our last Ofsted. It's lovely when an outside visitor validates all of our hard work!

Anna-Mai Armstrong
Headteacher

SCHOOL VALUES

**A FRIEND IS ONE
OF THE NICEST
THINGS TO HAVE
AND ONE OF THE
NICEST THINGS
TO BE!**

FRIENDSHIP



In our first Worship of the term, we explored what we valued about our friends, what made a good friend, and how we could be a better friend. The children said that they valued kindness and laughter in their friendships most of all.

Westbury-on-Severn C of E Primary School Newsletter



A small school, dreaming big

Thursday 23rd April 2026

Class News



CHESTNUTS

The children have settled back into the start of the term well; it was lovely to hear all about their adventures over Easter. The children have been busy with making Owls for the focus story - **Owl Babies**. They have been focusing on the letters **F** and **L**. In Maths the children have been practicing their counting up to 10 and seeing how far beyond ten they can count! The children have been enjoying the warmer weather and spending time in Forest school and spotting the different signs of spring and summer appearing.



WILLOW

Willow Class have had a wonderful start to the summer term! In Drawing Club we have been looking at the book '**Billy and the Beast**'. Reception have been writing 'I can see' sentences and Year Ones have been learning about verbs and the conjunction: *because*. In Maths, Reception have been counting to 20 and learning about 2D and 3D shapes. Whist Year Ones have been partitioning 17 and 18, as well as adding and subtracting practically using a tens frame. Our focus for PE this term is athletics. The children have been practising their balancing skills by taking part in lots of activities, such as balancing a bean bag on their head!



SYCAMORE

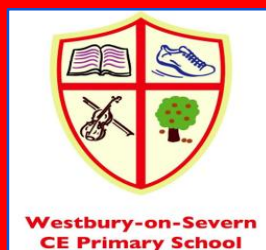
Sycamore Class have made a fantastic start to the summer term. In History, we have begun learning about the Romans, which links brilliantly with our new English text, **Escape from Pompeii**. To deepen our understanding of the events, we have been recalling last term's geography learning about volcanoes. The children will soon be putting their knowledge to use by writing their own newspaper reports about Pompeii. In Maths, Year 2 pupils have been learning to tell the time to quarter past and quarter to, so do ask them at home to show off their new skills! Year 3 have been working hard on dividing 3-digit numbers and have risen impressively to this challenge. In Science, we have had an exciting week planting beans to observe the germination process first-hand. Each bean even has its own name, with "Bob the Bean" proving a class favourite! Well done, Sycamore Class, for such a positive start to the term.



OAK

This week, we have been exploring all things India in Geography, with a particular focus on the River Ganges. We looked closely at both its physical features and its importance to people, developing our understanding of how geography shapes lives and communities. In English, we began our new book **The Children of Benin**, and the class produced thoughtful and imaginative letters written as characters to their future selves. In Maths, the focus has been on SATs preparation for Year 6, and the pupils are showing great determination and progress—they are doing a fantastic job.

Westbury-on-Severn C of E Primary School Newsletter



A small school, dreaming big

Thursday 23rd April 2026

Dates for your diary

4th May- Bank holiday- school is closed for the day

11th May- KS2 SATs week for Year 6

20th May- Whole school afternoon walk to the River Severn- do join us!

21st May- Open Classrooms from 8.30am- Parent and Carer drop in, come and see your children's work.

21st May- OPAL play afternoon for families- everyone welcome. 1.30-2.30pm

22nd May- End of Term 5: ***Please NOTE Day ends at 2pm***

1st June- Start of Term 6

5th June- School photos- classes and Y6 leavers

9th June- Y6 visit Gloucester Cathedral for the Leavers Service

11th June- Boys 2 Men Workshop for Y/6 boys

22nd June- first day of Dene Magna induction week for Y6

29th June- Kindness Ambassadors visit Chaxhill Care Home

3rd July- School Production at Westbury Parish Hall

6th - 10th- Dream Big Active Week, more details to follow. Lots of exciting physical activities and workshops, plus Whole School Sports morning. Y6 Bikeability during this week.

17th July- Last day of term : ***Please note Day ends at 2pm***

Whole school Attendance update

Sept 1st 2025 – April 22nd 2026

= 96.5%

National Average = 94.8%



A small school, dreaming big

Thursday 23rd April 2026

Celebration Awards

Every *Friday* we celebrate pupils' achievements during our Celebration Assembly.

If your child achieves something spectacular out of school, they are welcome to bring in medals, trophies or certificates on a Friday and we will share their success with the whole school.

Willow Class **Academic Excellence Award:** Millie and Oliver

Sycamore Class **Academic Excellence Award:** Finn and Ellis

Oak Class **Academic Excellence Award:** Violet and Lily H

Willow Class **Purple Learner of the Term- James**

Sycamore Class **Purple Learner of the Term- Ayrton**

Oak Class **Purple Learner of the Term- Eden**

Willow Class **HOME READER** of the Term- Oliver

Sycamore Class **HOME READER** of the Term- Hattie

Oak Class **HOME READER** of the Term- Olive

The Westbury Way Award- Lyra Alli

Respectful to Everyone and Everything

Ready to Learn

Safe at all Times



A small school, dreaming big

Thursday 23rd April 2026

Staffing Updates for the Summer Term

Both **Mrs Walls** and **Miss Wills** are returning soon from their maternity leave. Miss Wills is returning on 18th May and Mrs Walls is back on 1st June (the first day of Term 6).

We will have to say good bye to the wonderful **Miss Reeks**, who has covered Mrs Walls's maternity leave since January. It has been great having her support Willow class so ably and we wish her well in her new teaching role. Miss Reeks' last day will be 22nd May.

Mrs John will, for Term 6, job share with Mrs Walls and teach Willow on Thursdays and Fridays.

Miss Wills has made the difficult decision to not return in September, due to health issues, so we will make Term 6 a memorable one for her, since it is her last at Westbury.

Mrs John has happily agreed to continue working at Westbury on a permanent basis, from September, which is fantastic news.

We are having to say good bye to **Miss Eccles** from September, for the time being, who has been covering PPA in both Sycamore and Oak.

No changes to Teaching Assistants!

Westbury-on-Severn C of E Primary School Newsletter



A small school, dreaming big

Thursday 23rd April 2026

Staffing and Class Structure for September 2026

We are excited to share our plans for September, which include reorganising our classes and using this as an opportunity to rethink and refine our curriculum. This new class structure is something we have been considering for several years, as it offers a clearer and more coherent approach to teaching and learning for both pupils and staff. Until now, pupil numbers have not been at the right point to make this model work effectively, but we are now in a position where it can be implemented successfully.

Willow Class- Reception/Year 1 and Year 2 – estimated to be 20 pupils

Teachers: Mrs Walls, Mrs Armstrong (2 mornings) and Mrs John (3 afternoons)- Teaching Assistants Mrs Henry (Monday-Wednesday) and Mrs Boulton (Thursday and Friday)

Sycamore Class- Years 3 and 4 in the mornings with Mrs John. Teaching Assistant Mrs Betteridge all week. Estimated to be 12 pupils.

Yet to be named Class- please send in your suggestions!- Years 5 and 6 in the mornings with Mr Boyle (Monday- Thursday) and Mrs Smith (Friday), Teaching assistants Mrs Noad and Mrs Cracknell. Estimated to be 19 pupils.

Oak Class- Years 3/4/5/6 in the afternoons with Mr Boyle (Monday- Thursday), Mrs Smith (Friday) Mrs Betteridge will move up with Y3 and 4 in the afternoon. Estimated to be 31 pupils.

Once we have completed our curriculum reconfiguration in preparation for September, we will share the updated plans with you and publish them on our website. As part of this work, we are reviewing the way we teach Maths. At present, Maths is taught strictly by year group, which is not the most efficient model for mixed-age classes. We are therefore exploring a mixed year-group approach to Maths from September, which will allow for more effective use of teaching time and support stronger progression.

Many elements of our broader curriculum will remain in place, but we are using this moment as an opportunity to refresh and strengthen teaching and learning across the school. As always, we remain committed to excellence and to ensuring that every pupil receives the very best start to their education at Westbury.

Westbury-on-Severn C of E Primary School Newsletter



A small school, dreaming big

Thursday 23rd April 2026

A message from the Governing Board

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following on from our letter last week, we wanted to provide a brief update on the next steps in the process.

We have now been in touch with the Trust that the Governing Board has chosen to approach. After their next Board meeting they will be able to inform us if the Trust would like to explore the collaboration further. We have also been in touch with the Diocese of Gloucester and the next stage with them is to gain conditional consent which means we are able to explore joining the Trust further.

Until these formalities are completed and all parties have confirmed the approach, nothing can be shared publicly, and the due diligence process cannot yet begin.

We understand that periods of limited information can feel uncertain, and we want to reassure you that we remain committed to keeping you informed as we progress. As soon as we are able to share further details, we will do so, as promised.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding.



A small school, dreaming big

Thursday 23rd April 2026

Mountain Biking at the School Games



We sent a small team of keen mountain bikers from Oak Class to Newent Secondary School this week to compete in the School Games, organised by Dene Magna Secondary school PE department.

Each pupil completed the course individually and then the team completed a relay race against other primary schools. We proudly won the Bronze medal.

The pupils loved the event, but were worn out at the end of the day.

Apparently, nobody told them about the hills!

Thanks to Mrs Cracknell for taking them all there and back and cheering them on.

Westbury-on-Severn C of E Primary School Newsletter



A small school, dreaming big

Thursday 23rd April 2026

**Denmark Road
High School**

Be part of the Denmark
Road experience.

Join us for our Open Morning
30th April or 4th June
8.45-10.30

All welcome.
No booking required.

www.denmarkroad.org

The advertisement features a young girl in a school uniform (dark blue blazer, striped shirt, and colorful tie) smiling at the camera. She is sitting at a desk with papers. In the background, another student is visible, slightly out of focus. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.



A small school, dreaming big

Thursday 23rd April 2026

Make Music
Have Fun
Get Playing

Whole Class
Ensemble Tuition

£10

Instrumental
Hire Offer

Hire an instrument
& join an orchestra
for just £10!

Just £10 to hire an instrument and join an orchestra!

Summer 2026

For pupils who are receiving Whole Class Ensemble Tuition (WCET) in school

Westbury-on-Severn C of E Primary School Newsletter



A small school, dreaming big

Thursday 23rd April 2026

Your child is currently receiving instrumental tuition delivered by Gloucestershire Music. This term, your child will receive 10 Whole Class Ensemble Tuition lessons (WCET) at their school developing skills in listening, notation, composition and performance. Because your child receives these lessons, we can provide discounted instrument hire to help support home learning and to facilitate free access to one of our music centre foundation ensembles.

The instruments currently available as part of this scheme are:

Brass - Cornet, trumpet & baritone horn

Strings - Violin, viola & guitar

Woodwind - Clarinet & flute

Percussion - Snare drum & glock pack

The instrument you hire must be the same type of instrument as the one your child is playing in their WCET lessons at school.

Please note: if your child is receiving WCET on ukulele it is more cost effective for you to buy an instrument than hire. Access to a music centre junior orchestra is still available in this circumstance regardless of instrumental hire.

We do not include recorder as part of this scheme. Instead we offer recorders to purchase for £10. Please contact glosmusic@gloucestershire.gov.uk for more information.